Pre-'freeze' retroactive pay raise OK -- if it's cut back as of August 16

President Nixon's "freeze" administrators actually gave their blessing to one type of pay raise last week—as long as it is followed by a pay cut.

And they ruled that, even if the length of your vacation is dependent on the length of your employment, you're "frozen" out of any increase in vacation during the "freeze" period.

The pay cut directive by Nixon's Cost of Living Council holds that a pay raise negotiated during the "freeze" can be retroactive for prior work but the rate for work done during the "freeze" has to be cut to the original level.

Nixon's council said it was like this:

A contract agreed upon September 1 and retroactive to July 1, increases wages from $2.80 to $3 hourly. For the period July 1 through August 15, the worker's wage is $3, but from August 16 until the freeze ends, his wage is $2.80.

On vacations, the Nixon council said that, even if it is established practice to lengthen vacations after specified lengths of employment workers couldn't longer vacations during the A ust 15-November 1 "freeze" riod.

"Increases in paid vacat are treated the same as longe increases and may not be gra

MORE on pa

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EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

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VOLUME XLV, NUMBER 28 — OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1971 — SINGLE COPIES TEN CENTS

Ban Nixon giveaway, labor asks Congress

Settlement in housing authority strike



NO GENERATION GAP in Office & Professional Employees Local 29's strike against the Oakland housing authority. Children of strikers helped out on the picket line at authority headquarters, 935 Union Street.

Sixty white collar employes ended a five-day strike against the Oakland housing authority Tuesday after approving a settlement.

The agreement between the authority and Office & Professional Employees Local 29 was up for expected approval Wednesday by the authority board of commissioners.

Details were not announced pending action by the commissioners.

The strike began September 16 and agreement was reached at a negotiation session Monday, Local 29 Representative Lou Celaya reported.

The walkout came after a negotiating session September 15 at which Celaya disclosed these surprising things happened:

1. Management told the negotiators it would decide whether or not the employes really needed the union.

2. Management told the negotiators that the partially-agreed settlement would be rewritten and brought back to them later.

3. The whole union-management subject was being referred to a meeting of the board of commissioners this week.

The 60 strikers picketed the

MORE on page 8

Meany urges fair tax laws, U.S. investment for jobs

The AFL-CIO last week demanded that Congress scrap President Nixon's proposals for billions in a tax cut giveaway to business and pass a program of real tax justice.

And, while they're at it, legislators should wipe out Nixon's already effective rapid depreciation tax bonanza to big business—a $4,000,000,000 gift of U.S. tax revenues to big corporations—AFL-CIO President George Meany urged.

Rather than Nixon's plan to give tax money to big business, Meany urged it be used in federal investments to build schools, hospitals, parks and other needed facilities.

That, he said, would put jobless workers to work giving them purchasing power to buy "goods of plants now idle."

And, as he had previously told Nixon at a White House conference, Meany told Congressmen that an essential of the equitable "Phase Two" economic stabilization plan would be one developed by representatives of unions, employers and the public along World War II War Labor Board Lines.

Labor would cooperate in such an equitable setup, he declared.

Meany ripped apart the administration's latest economic game plan during a three-hour appearance before the House Ways & Means Committee.

He called the principal tax law changes sought by the President "grossly unfair and one-sided," based on the discredited "trickle

MORE on page 6

Dick, Martha talk about the economy

President Nixon and Martha Mitchell spoke out on the economy last week as Nixon's wage-price "freeze" continued, mostly on wages.

Nixon called a quick press conference to report that the permanent economic control setup he plans after the "freeze" expires November 13 would have "teeth."

This was a hint that he wanted no part of the labor-management-public tripartite—and voluntary — economic machinery proposed by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

The ebullient Mrs. Mitchell, wife of Nixon's attorney general, John Mitchell, told the press that her advice to women on how to support the economy was:

MORE on page 6

BTC fights for UC, Oakland school pay

The University of California this week flatly told the Alameda County Building Trades Council that it will not pay "at this time" the raises due under prevailing wage agreements as a result of Governor Reagan's "austerity."

In another development affecting public employes' pay, the BTC planned a meeting with Oakland Superintendent of Schools Marcus Foster over the latter's plan to cut the work week by two hours—and thus cut pay and pringe benefit contributions —for school building tradesmen.

THE SUPERVISORS—
Training the key—PAGE 3
Welfare 'priority' vote hit —PAGE 8

UC's "no-raise" program affects 500 building tradesmen and some 400 culinary workers, printing tradesmen, Teamsters and Machinists covered by agreements that their pay is to match the prevailing wage.

The Oakland schools employ about 160 building tradesmen. They met prior to the BTC meeting and agreed to seek further talks with Foster.

BTC Business Representative Lamar Childers had written UC President Charles J. Hitch on July 29, protesting the university order to delay until further notice payment of the prevailing wage increases.

The answer from UC Vice President for Administration Robert L. Johnson was relayed by the BTC to all affiliates with UC members. It laid the blame equally on the Legislature and Governor Reagan, although funds for UC pay increases were voted by the lawmakers and vetoed by Reagan.

"Range increases cannot be provided for University employes at this time because of the failure of the Legislature and the Governor to agree to appropriate funds for range increases for faculty and staff as well as funds to cover increased operating costs in general . . ."

Johnson noted that "costs and declining construction programs have already forced the University to reduce the number of its building trades craftsmen."

Childers had noted that UC Radiation Laboratory employes are paid from federal Atomic Energy Commission funds and should not be affected by state money problems.

But Johnson said he thought it would be "highly inequitable and disruptive" if one group got more money. And he maintained that the AEC required that Rad-Lab employes get the same pay as others at the university.

Childers noted that Reagan had vetoed UC pay increases in the budget and Tom Sweeney of Electrical Workers Local 595 said that "any of our members who voted for Reagan should know now that he vetoed this appropriation."

from the
EDITOR'S CHAIR

Late news from Kansas

Let it never be said that Kansas is 30 years behind the rest of the nation, but a news item from that section of the Great Plains brings back old memories.

It seems that the Wichita Eagle & Beacon newspapers feel that an employe who is active in her union simply can't be allowed to write editorials.

Being on the executive board of the Wichita Newspaper Guild,

MORE on page 6

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Union meeting notices page 6, correspondents columns pages 4 and 5.



ALAMEDA COUNTY winner in the California Labor Federation college scholarship contest, Virginia Houlding, gets her $500 check from Secretary Sylvan Thornton of Butchers Local 120, a sponsor of the award program. Presentation took place at Central Labor Council meeting. Left to right, Virginia's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Houlding, Thornton, Labor Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Richard K. Groulx, and Virginia. A 1971 Livermore High School graduate, she will be a chemistry major at the University of California Santa Cruz campus.

How to Buy

Varying success of buying clubs

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS
Labor Journal Consumer Expert

In times of severely high prices as now, there is renewed interest among families in trying to beat high living costs by getting together in buying clubs. In the last two years, such clubs and co-ops have been springing up all over the country. Some are successful. Others do not fare as well.

Young people especially are showing a noticeable interest in co-ops, reports Philip Dodge, an official of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A.

He tells about the Oakland Co-op near the University of Pittsburgh—virtually a general store staffed mostly by young volunteers but saving its members money on food, basic clothing items, school materials, and other student needs.

SOME STUDENT co-ops own their own student residences, as well as their own food stores.

Students at the University of California in Berkeley operate an apartment house and also own several stores.

In fact, most of the large universities now have student co-ops of one kind or another, performing a great variety of self-supporting services from operating clothing and book stores to leasing refrigerators for dorm rooms and running their own boarding houses.

But older people too are using the cooperative idea in some useful ways to cushion the impact of inflation on their meager resources, as in the taxi-type transportation co-op established by senior citizens in mid-Missouri to provide transportation to stores, doctors and friends.

Another group of cost-concerned citizens who often operate their own buying clubs, with or without stores, is large families.

For example, the Family Buying Cooperative Association of Flushing, N.Y., has a food store and also arranges discounts for shoes, car needs and other goods. In Lynbrook, N.Y., Newsday food editor Barbara Rader reported, the Borromeo Family Buying Association has its own store where quantity lots of food are sold at cost three nights a week.

PERHAPS the bravest and most hopeful buying clubs are those organized in recent years by low-income families, sometimes on their own.

Like many buying clubs, these have varying success. If the actual work depends on the enthusiasm of one or two members the buying clubs sometimes discontinue when these activists lose steam. But even if only temporarily, they do help save members some money.

If more capital, broader organization, experienced guidance, support of established community groups and/or assistance from government programs is available, the buying clubs are more likely to become established on a more permanent basis. In fact, the recently-opened Bronx River co-op store in New York City began as a small buying club just a few years ago.

In the Boston area, William H. Horvath, an experienced co-op educator, helped a group of Head Start mothers organize the Columbia Point Buying Association. The association opened a "store" in a three room apartment provided by the Boston Housing Authority. The women shopped for their joint needs at wholesale meat and egg houses and at the New England wholesale co-op in Framingham.

Other buying clubs have been started by both low and moderate-income families without a store. The members used a basement or back room of a church or sent a member to a nearby wholesale market and immediately parceled out the purchases.

Sometimes small buying clubs get discouraged when members see that the hoped-for lower prices are not much lower than in nearby competitive supermarkets, especially if they judge by the supermarket specials.

An important key to the success of a buying club is its selectivity. It does not pay a small group with its lower buying power to try to save further on the low - margin supermarket leaders such as canned goods. More important savings may be available in prepackaged meats, selected produce and nonfood items.

SOMETIMES too, buying clubs try to save their members money on high-priced brands or low-value items such as canned soda when bigger savings would be available in private brands and better food values.

The newest trend in co-ops is the "direct charge" depot which started in Ottawa and spread to other Canadian and U.S. cities. Instead of paying retail prices and getting a rebate at the end of the year, members of direct charge co-ops pay a weekly fee to operate the depot or store and pay the wholesale price for their purchases.

So far this type of co-op has demonstrated success in a number of cities, but there have been failures, too. The difficulties are that a large family may be able to save more than a small one or a single person who pays the same membership fee.

Too, opening a regular store with large overhead but small membership makes it impossible to sell at wholesale prices. A short-lived direct charge co-op in Peabody, Mass., found this out the hard way, Beverly Byrnes wrote in the **Co-op Report** magazine.

But where selectivity is used and expenses are kept low, direct charge co-ops have been more successful. In fact, in Peabody the members of the unsuccessful direct-charge big store now have organized a low-overhead depot specializing in items on which worthwhile savings are really possible.

(Copyright 1971)

Getting your MONEY'S WORTH

Consumers Union believes hundreds of children are killed every year by the ingestion of common household products with unnecessarily dangerous formulations.

It says petroleum-based furniture polishes, liquid drain cleaners, and dishwater detergents made with soda ash are particularly hazardous and could be replaced by less hazardous but equally effective products.

The September edition of CU's Consumer Reports notes that federal law provides for the banning of hazardous household products when safer ones will do just as well but charges that the government has "sat on its hands while children died" from household poisons.

It asks Health, Education & Welfare Secretary Elliott Richardson to:

- **Explain why he has not acted to ban all petroleum-based liquid furniture polishes which can enter and saturate the lungs so they cannot function, with no way to reverse the poisonous effect.**
- **Immediately order off the market two dishwater detergents —Finish and Electrosol (Economics Laboratory, St. Paul, Minn.)—as they are presently formulated, and any other brands that tests show to be equally corrosive. Both Electrasol and Finish use highly caustic soda ash as the active cleaning ingredient.**
- **Ban liquid drain cleaners or require all of them to be sold in child-resistant packaging. The magazine says cats fed one teaspoonful of the new 5 per cent hydroxide formula Liquid-Plumr died from severe esophagus injuries, although an antidote was given within seconds. Yet, the makers, Clorox Co. of Oakland, have removed the skull and crossbones and the word "poison" from the label, says Consumer Reports.**

THE REPORT is highly critical of the packaging practices of some manufacturers, particularly the makers of furniture polishes containing petroleum distillates. It declared:

". . . the industry continues its 50-year-old practice of masking the normal odor—and the lethal nature—of petroleum-based polishes with fruit-flavored scents and beverage-like appearances. To make matters worse, some brands are marketed in easy-to-open containers, which a toddler could mistake for soda pop or juice bottles."

The consumer organization chides the Secretary for taking five months just to name a technical advisory committee as required by last year's Poison Prevention Packaging Act.

The new law could prove especially effective against the hazards of aspirin and other drugs to children, says Consumer Reports. It adds that the Canadian Medical Journal says "Palm-'N-Turn" caps which can be opened only if you push down while unscrewing them proved exceptionally effective.

The report says there is no reason for using a petroleum-based liquid furniture polish when there are acceptable substitutes. It adds that it is "beyond dispute that polishes containing petroleum distillates are particularly lethal when swallowed."

The magazine recounts how a one-year old Illinois boy died 40 hours after swallowing a small quantity of **Old English** polish, a brand line using petroleum distillates.

Eight deaths from the ingestion of furniture polish were reported in Illinois between 1966 and 1969; six of the eight deaths involved **Old English.**

OTHER POISONOUS products noted by the consumer magazine include oven cleaners, ammonia, charcoal lighter fluid, dry cleaning solvents, paints, and brush cleaners. It estimates there are about 250 000 potential harmful everyday products.

Consumer Reports says cautionary labels are discreet at best: "Containers and labels are designed to promote use, not discourage it."

The magazine says its tests have shown the world could live quite well without liquid drain cleaners. "All but the most stubborn drain blockages under the kitchen sink will probably yield to hot water." Beyond that, the magazine recommends using a drain auger or "snake" to clear the blockage.

Safer packaging is the preventive of choice for child poisonings caused by drugs, because obviously drugs themselves cannot be banned, says Consumer Reports.



CONSUMER ADVOCATE Evelyn Dubrow, legislative director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, told a network radio audience that the Nixon administration's consumer policy is made up of "wishy washy" proposals or attempts to weaken already enacted consumer protection. Mrs. Dubrow, center, is being questioned by reporters on the AFL-CIO Labor News Conference heard Tuesdays on the Mutual Network.

The Consumer Docket

The Federal Trade Commission announced that tests of certain children's sweatshirts imported and sold by Sears, Roebuck have shown them to be dangerously flammable if worn inside out.

Although the smooth outer surface conforms to flammability standards, says the FTC, the sweatshirts burn faster than the legal limit when a test flame is applied to the fleecy inner surface.

The sweatshirts are labeled "Made in Hong Kong" and come in hooded, long-sleeved ,short-sleeved and crew-neck styles.

The FTC says that some 3,300 of the potentially hazardous sweatshirts were sold by mail and at Sears retail stores and that Sears has announced it will give refunds on the garments.

THE NORTH AMERICAN Chemical Corp. of Paterson, N. J., agreed to relabel its Ecolo-G and Bohack no-phosphate laundry detergents to include a warning to consumers.

Federal officials had previously seized 4,000 packages of the products after biological tests conducted by the Food & Drug Administration revealed them to be "toxic, corrosive to intact skin and the cause of severe eye irritation."

The Federal Hazardous Substances Act requires such products to include a warning on the label.

Until such time as the company reformulates the products, they must employ the following cautionary label:

"Danger—may cause burns — Harmful if swallowed—Eye irritant—Contains sodium metasilicate. Avoid contact with skin, eyes and mucous membranes. In case of external contact, flush with water. For eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes and give immediate medical attention. If swallowed, give large quantities of water or milk. Follow with citrus juice or dilute vinegar. Keep out of reach of children."

Since a number of laundry and dishwater detergents can cause severe burns if ingested, parents are advised to keep all such products out of the reach of children.

THE POST OFFICE Department stopped delivering mail addressed to Anapax Products, Inc., New York City, after determining that the company had sold its Anapax weight-reducing system through the mails by means of false representations.

The Anapax method, according to an advertisement in American Home magazine, featured three "special tablets daily" that would help people lose up to 90 pounds or more in 60 days without dieting.

The ad claimed further that obese people might actually lose weight under the method by eating more than usual.

A disbelieving postoffice official ordered the halt in mail delivery after being told by a medical expert that the claims were "materially false."

These are items from Consumers Union's docket of government action under consumer laws. Consumers Union notes:

The regulatory actions reported here have been selected from many such taken every month. Consent orders and assurances of voluntary compliance or discontinuance obtained by regulatory and enforcement agencies directly or in court do not constitute a finding or an admission that the companies or individuals violated the law or that the allegations in the complaint are true. Readers can help to expand the state and local coverage by sending appropriate newspaper clippings, complete with the name and date of publication, to: The Docket, Consumers Union, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10550.

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JOHN M. ESHLEMAN,
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POSTMASTER: PLEASE SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICES, FORM 3579, TO 1622 EAST TWELFTH STREET, OAKLAND, CALIF. 94606.

Training key to minority jobs, board told

Training is the key to minority opportunity in construction, a labor representative told the Alameda County board of supervisors last week as the board failed to pass a plan for minority hiring by builders with county contracts.

The board will take another look at the proposal on October 26 after it got only two affirmative votes last week.

Alameda County Building Trades Council Business Representative Lamar Childers told the board that the minority plan, drafted by the county Human Relations Commission would not produce any minority jobs simply because of the lack of qualified minority craftsmen.

He noted that the "hometown" labor-minorities-contractors affirmative action plan set up in the county last year emphasizes training, unlike the county proposal, but that the federal Labor Department so far has failed to finance it. The plan has asked for $500,000.

If the federal funds are not forthcoming, he said, the tripartite plan's representatives will be back asking the board to come up with the needed money. On a previous request for county financing, a board motion to that effect failed of a second.

Voting for the county plan last week were Supervisor Joseph Bort and Board Chairman Robert Hannon, and Supervisor John D. Murphy voted no. Supervisor Fred F. Cooper did not vote and Supervisor Emanuel Razeto was not present.

The rejected proposal would require that contractors with over $50,000 county contracts hire minority craftsmen in proportion to the ethnic composition of the population.

Contractors participating in the tripartite plan—if it is operating—would be exempted from the county hiring goals.

The tripartite plan aims at minority participation in construction equal to minority percentages in the population on a four-year graduated scale with training producing the skilled minority workers now in short supply.

Training, Childers noted, costs money. Until there are qualified men, minority workers, contractors under the county plan would have to pay prevailing wages to men with lesser skills, he added.

And, he said, employers won't pay top wages to unqualified workers.

Business has faith in U.S.-run controls

Labor doesn't like the possibility that the Nixon "freeze" will be followed by economic controls dictated by government, but big business thinks it's a good idea.

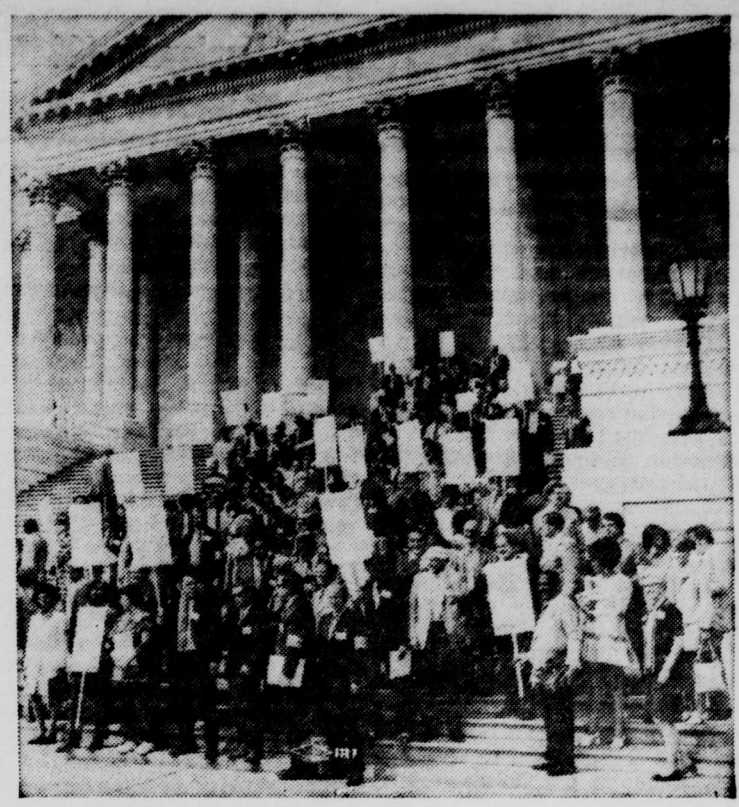
Which doesn't contradict the thought that such government power could be profitable to management.

Among the business executives who met with Nixon to give their ideas on controls, General Motors Board Chairman James M. Roche told reporters he believed "policy decisions should be in the hands of the government."

U.S. chamber of commerce President Archie K. Davis said that basic decisions should be made by the all-government Cost of Living Council and with no public participation.

Business leaders also expressed strong opposition to any excess profits tax while the AFL-CIO called for immediate enactment of such a measure.

AFL-CIO President George Meany told House hearings that "so long as profits are unchecked while wages and salaries are restrained, the test of equity is not met."



TEACHERS protested President Nixon's "freeze" and launched their drive for $1,000,000 to help replace him at next year's election. Members of the American Federation of Teachers brought picket signs to the Capitol in Washington to protest "freeze" inequities.

Speaking of 'conflict of interest'

The Wichita, Kansas, Newspaper Guild thinks that management was far out of line in transferring a woman employe because she took on a women's political post without consulting the boss and because she is active in the Guild.

The Wichita Eagle & Beacon said editorial writer Dorothy Wood was in "conflict of interest."

The Guild filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board declaring Mrs. Wood's activities involved no more conflict of interest than there is "between the management's membership in chamber of commerce activities and the newspapers' editorial positions."

Mrs. Wood is a local Guild executive board member and coordinator of A Political Caucus of Wichita Women. And last fall she represented the Wichita union at a national Guild Women's Rights conference.

The Wichita Eagle & Beacon shifted her to the Sunday supplement, telling her that "your present involvement with the Wichita Newspaper Guild has made it necessary to prevent you writing editorial comment on labor matters."

Besides that, the paper said "the public can question the credibility of the newspapers as to any comment" the papers make on the women's political caucus, since Mrs. Wood has "been publicly identified as an editorial writer."

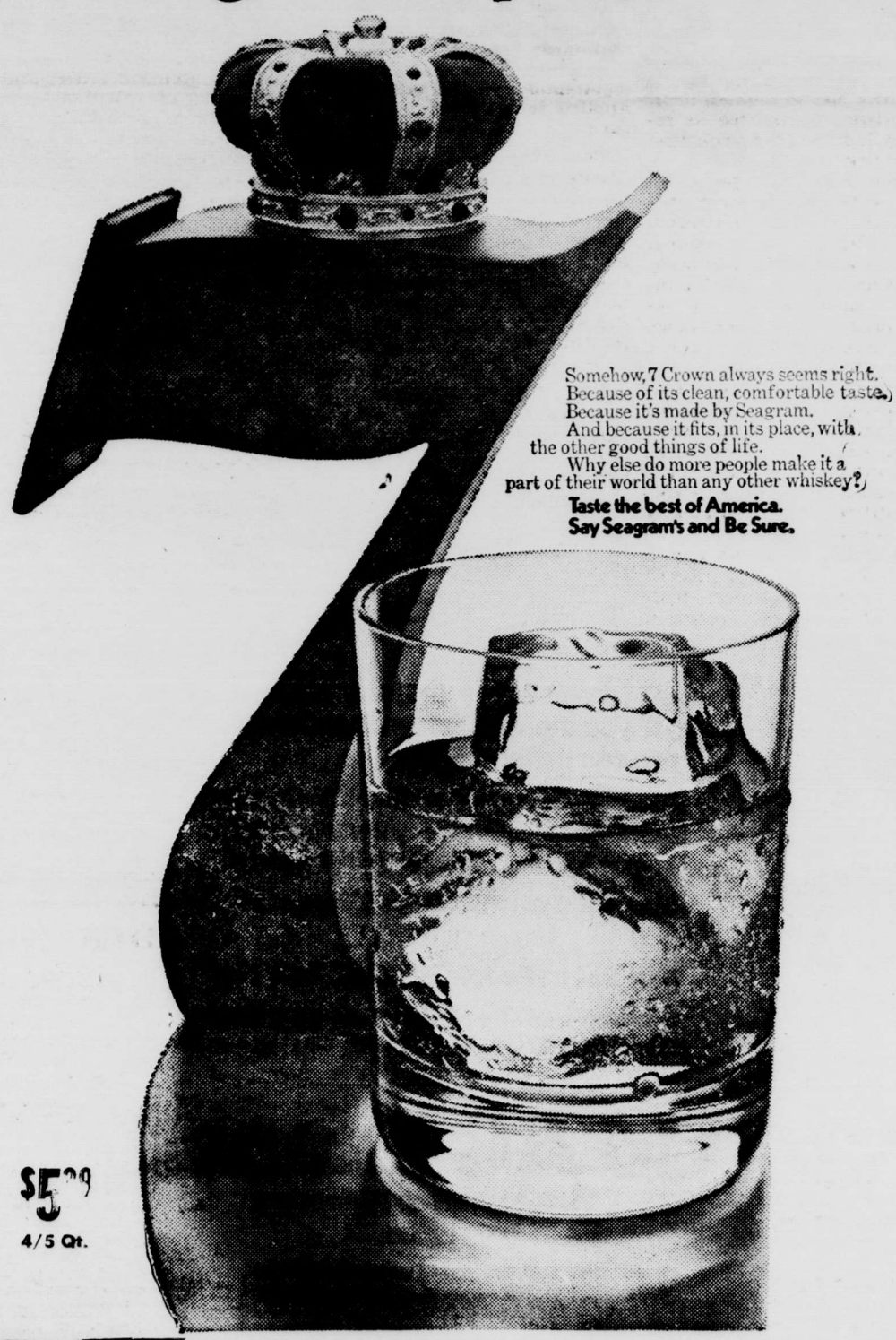
Heart health event set Oct. 2-3

The Heart Associations of the Bay Area will hold a "Heart Health Fair," Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3 at the University of California to give the public a wide range of information on heart care.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Lawrence Hall of Science. It will include:

Lecture - demonstrations on birth defects, heart transplants and open heart surgery; clinics on nutrition and blood pressure, children's science discovery workshops, film showings, exhibits on electronic heart care, demonstrations of heart sound screening and a teachers information center.

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Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BENONYS

The Carpenters Drywall Agreement has been settled and is now in process of being ratified by the California Drywall Association members and the State Council of Carpenters Executive Board which negotiates the statewide agreement. It is my understanding that the Craft Board, in Washington has approved the contract, it must now be presented to the final Construction Industry Stabilization Board for approval.

Details on this contract will be printed as soon as we have the latest correct information.

Uncle Benny claims that the way certain people find fault, you'd think there was a reward!

Li'll GeeGee, our office vamp says, "Sure he's a cad, but so's his convertible!"

Cousin Al observes, it used to be that a man running down a city street in his shorts at 6:30 in the morning was either absent-minded or fleeing his wife. NOW he is just another jogger.

On our sick and injured and recovery list are Brothers Frank Bassi, Robert Heffley, Richard Jardin, Albert S. Jones, Joe C. Jones, Crawford Keith, Donovan V. Mackay, Frank McLaughlin, Eugene T. Maher, Art O. Simpson, Karl G. Stohle, William Schooley.

Brother Pete Ribergaard is in process of retiring.

We deeply regret to report the following deaths:

Brother Oscar Linsa. He was 72 years of age and a member for 37 years. Brother Roy Hoover's wife Estelle passed away September 8, 1971. Wilford Sprague's wife Marie died on September 13, 1971. Florence, wife of Brother Grandon Orr, passed away June 5, 1971. Our heartfelt sympathies to these families, from all the Brothers.

OPERATION PAPERBACK is still in business and our thanks to Paul Boitano, Ken Mortimer, Dale Anway and Teresa Cook for their contributions of the handy little paperbacks for our men in the Armed Forces. They really enjoy reading them, especially those that are in hospitals.

Happy days are around the hall with lots of smiling faces. Must be that the Brothers are receiving their retroactive pay checks from their various employers.

There are important changes due very shortly in the Health and Welfare benefits. Also a great change involving Major Medical coverage and extension of the prescription from just the member to include the dependents, also.

Will inform you of the actual details as soon as they are in print. Another improvement will involve better dental payments and coverage on the bills for that type of service.

Good news. Brother M. B. "Bud" Bryant, formerly a General Representative has been appointed as Eighth District General Executive Board member. His area covers several western states and Hawaii.

That's all, folks. See you at the next union meeting, Brother.

State Employees 411

BY WINSLOW C. ROUSE

The Union of State Employee's initiative campaign for the Stable Government Act is well off to its goal of half a million signatures by late November.

The circulating petition is for a Constitutional Amendment requiring that salary recommendations of the State Personnel Board, based on surveys of prevailing wage rates, must go into effect unless overruled by a two-thirds majority of both houses of the legislature. The Governor's present and capriciously applied veto would be eliminated and we would be removed from the political punting stand.

Success of the initiative could be a key to breaking the anti-labor provisions of the executive freezes at all levels of government, and by implication, business as well. With the deserved support it's getting from organized labor, this low flyer has a good chance of evading the flack in Sacramento and delivering the goods.

We estimate that a determined effort could yield the required signatures from the Bay Area alone, but copies of the petition are being sent north and south as demand grows. If you haven't seen it yet call for your copies and start getting signatures. Signers don't have to be State employes, only registered voters.

Several "yellow dog" organizations claiming to represent State employes, and getting pressure from their members, are beginning to talk political action as though they just invented it.

But while they talk with their hats off the wage-cost gap is widening. We urge them to prove their sincerity by joining us in this drive. Solidarity, not refinement, is the best mark of allegience. Ben Franklin said it well when he remarked, while signing the Declaration of Independence, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Millmen's 550

BY ARSIE BIGBY

A class is planned to start soon to upgrade the skill of members who lack experience in Blue Print reading, laying out work, making cutting list, Shop drawing, etc.

Members interested in attending such a class should notify the Union immediately in writing of their desire to participate in this class. If the above described class is a success, there may be other classes started to teach other phases of the trade. Such as how to make and grind knives for Sticker matcher and Shaper machines as well as set up and operate same. There appears to be some need for a class to teach laminated plastic sink and counter top work and prefit door work.

The membership must be interested in participating in such classes or they can neither be established or maintained. So if you are interested, let it be known to the Union in writing.

At your last membership meeting several complaints were raised regarding the way in which the Health & Welfare program is being administered since being moved to San Francisco. Since there was no specific proof offered on any specific case, it was impossible for me to conclude whether or not errors are being made at the Administration level. The Trustees are as eager as the membership to see that the plan is operated correctly.

My suggestion is: Any member having a complaint or gripe, state in writing all the pertinent facts. Mail this information to the Local Union, Room 208, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California 94612 or directly to the Trust Fund office, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California, where the information will be examined and discussed with the Administrator. If there are errors or inequities caused at the administration level, corrective measures will be taken immediately and if not you will be notified that you are in error.

Sheet Metal 216

BY FRED AND BILL

A few minor problems still must be solved before the retroactive pay back to July 1, 1971 can be paid and the 1971 negotiations can be considered finished and the new contract fully implemented. In the interim 77 cents per hour worked, (70 cents wages, and 7 cents industry fund) is being paid into escrow accounts to insure its availability when the proper time arrives to pay it to our members.

An agreement with Nor Cal Metal Fabricators and Melrose Sheet Metal has been reached and awaits a vote of approval from the members working in these shops.

Attendance at the Labor Day Picnic left much to be desired. By a vote of the membership at the regular September meeting which approved a recommendation of the Executive Board, Local 216 will have a picnic for its members. Steps are being taken to select a time and place to hold the event and you will be notified as soon as possible.

Please hold Saturdays in the latter part of October open so you and your family will be able to attend. Let's make this event a great success so more can be held in the future.

The out of work list shows 128 members still out of work. This has undoubtedly been one of the poorest years in a long time for Local 216 members. For all intents and purposes F. B. Gardner Company has closed their shop and has moved back to Los Angeles costing Local 216 many full time shop jobs, as well as field jobs.

Our sick list this week shows William C. Land and Harry Mello afflicted by illness or accident. Members who know these people please contact them and try to help speed their recovery.

Members of the Tri State Death Benefit Fund, Death Assessment 709 is now due and payable.

Regular membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California.

Improved jobless aid pressed to aid unemployed

Immediate federal action to update the unemployment insurance system is needed to meet the severity and duration of the nation's unemployment crisis, AFL-CIO social security specialist James O'Brien declared.

Despite the rise of unemployment during the economic sag of the last two years, "few states have responded to the President's plea . . . to enact legislation" raising maximum benefits to two-thirds of the "statewide average weekly wage," O'Brien said.

Only about half the unemployed are covered by the present system, and that every week, some 160,000 of those exhaust their benefits before they have found employment.

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Dental Technicians 99

BY LEO TURNER

The "profits - above - all - else and to hell with human beings" attitude which permeates Big Business seems to have become a policy for at least one of our employers too.

This is illustrated by the lack of any progress in our negotiations for the new dental assistants' contract with Dr. Campbell. The "wage freeze" is being used as a convenient excuse for failing to negotiate on any of our demands including the ones that don't involve wages. We will make another attempt this Friday, September 24.

On the request of the employer, a Federal Conciliator will also be present. It is to be hoped that the employer representatives will come to this meeting with a sincere desire to attempt to work out an agreement. Otherwise, we could reach a crisis situation in the near future that will involve not only the dental assistants and office personnel but the technicians as well.

This is to remind all members that the next local membership meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6. Further details on this next week.

Ironworkers 378

BY DICK ZAMPA

By now you all should have received your California Field Ironworker Welfare Plan booklet and your Identification cards. If you have not received them, we also have a supply at the Business Office available upon your request. If you would like to have another Identification card for yourself or your wife, you may call Margie Fountain at (415) 392-9077 and she will see that you receive one. Please remind your doctor or hospital that when billing Occidental, the address is: Occidental Life of California, Group Health Benefits Dept., Box 2101 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California 90051. Some of these forms have been sent to the California Field Ironworkers welfare office in San Francisco, which is incorrect, and can only delay payment.

Your vacation check should have been mailed to you some time in the first week of October, 1971 if you have filed. You may now file, if you have not done so; the forms are available at the Local union office or from most of the employers.

Our new contract was ratified by members of the Ironworker locals in California on August 30, 1971 with 80 per cent in favor of it, and it has currently been submitted to the Craft Dispute Board. If accepted, it will then be submitted to the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee. Then, of course, it is subject to President Nixon's wage freeze. The latest information I have is that the wage freeze will be dropped at the end of the 90 days with some restrictions.

The work has picked up somewhat but the jobs are still of short duration. Since my last article we have lost a few members: Gunner (Buck) Anderson passed away August 14, 1971; Delmar Rager passed away August 30; Melvin (Whitey) Moore passed aawy September 2; and Andy Edwards was killed on the job September 8, 1971. Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of these Brothers. The following is a list of some of our sick members: Paul Cotman, Leo Gonzales, Virgil Smithson, Harold Brown, Weldon Easley, Thomas (Irish) Fleming, Bill Golden, Robert Ballard, Mel Booth, Daryl Pederson, Jim Duff, Al Barley.

Union aide retires

Herbert D. Dawson, assistant to United Rubber Workers President Peter Bommarito since 1966 and a URW staff member since 1937, retired because of illness.

Watchmakers 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

We had a very good meeting in San Francisco on September 16 with an approximate 95 per cent attendance.

Certain minimum conditions were approved for a new one year agreement, to expire October 15, 1972. These minimum conditions were approved by a 98 per cent vote of those members in attendance. The minimum conditions for a new agreement were accepted only because of the current President's Wage and Price Freeze.

We are not going into any reporting on the minimum conditions approved at this writing, as we wish to explain these conditions to the San Jose Group Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 5, in the Labor Temple, 2102 Almaden Road, San Jose.

We can report however, that the membership approved the Union's "No Contract No Work" policy of previous years. In keeping with this policy, a Special Meeting will be held in both San Francisco and San Jose on Monday, October 18, for those members whose Employers have not signed the new Union Agreement.

No one knows what to expect from day to day under the present Government policy. We shall watch it very closely and if we feel we can accomplish more than our minimum conditions, we shall not hestitate to call another Special Union Meeting.

ATTENTION: This is a first notice to **SAN JOSE MEMBERS**—your Special $10 Non-attendance fine meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 1971, in the Conference Room of the San Jose Labor Temple, 2102 Almaden Road, San Jose, at 7:30 p.m. A letter will be sent you in ample time to remind you of this meeting.

AFSCME 1695

BY ERNIE HABERKERN

Events of the last month or so seem to indicate that the University of California administration, sniffing out an anti-labor offensive that climaxed in Nixon's wage freeze, is reneging on previous agreements with campus unions. In view of the fact that these agreements are themselves far short of the collective bargaining that takes place in private industry, the University appears to be thinking of reducing the unions to impotence.

As many of you know the University President Charles Hitch was one of the first to leap on the Nixon bandwagon. He put out a memorandum freezing re-classifications for the duration of the freeze, thus eliminating even those raises that are the result of seniority or increased skill levels and job responsibilities. At the same time he argued that University fees, especially tuition fees would be raised. This appears to be legal under Nixon's plan, but then everything employers do, short of sticking a gun in the worker's ribs and demanding his money, seems to be legal according to Nixon.

What is even more important, the University seems to be trying to roll back the minimal grievance procedures campus unions have won. There is no direct connection between these attempts and Nixon's freeze, although it may very well be that the University is counting on a general anti-labor political atmosphere instigated by the administration to cover its actions.

This week AFSCME 1695 held its first informational picketing of the school year protesting the dismissal of a union member from the Black Studies department in violation of all grievance procedures not to mention simple fairness. The union member had worked for some two and one-half years with good recommendations from her supervisors. She was dismissed without cause last spring despite this work record. The chairman of the department at first demanded she be taken back but backed down under internal pressure. Then the Vice Chancellor, in the next appeal step, ruled in her favor. For a number of months the union member received a paycheck even though the professor who fired her had traveled abroad after changing the lock on the office door to prevent the dismissed employe from working. On his return, the professor went into a **secret** meeting with the personnel office, and without even notifying the employe or the union which had represented her, recommended to the vice-chancellor that he reverse his decision. He also decided the matter without notifying the union or the employe. The whole comic opera business is, of course, completely in violation of the University's own grievance procedure.

We believe the University, like the Nixon administration, has seriously underestimated the labor movement. The general trend among public employes is toward stronger collective bargaining agreements more like those in private industry. The University of California cannot withstand that trend for long.

Pay cuts seen in employer 4-day week plan

When management seeks to get the Labor Department to drop requirements for overtime pay after eight hours in a day as a concession to "growing interest" in a four-day workweek, it looks suspiciously like an "employer ploy" aimed at cutting wages.

AFL-CIO economist Rudolph Oswald told a Labor Deptrtment hearing that the trade union movement fought for generations to establish a maximum eight-hour day.

Studies have shown that work injuries increase and efficiency goes down when the workday is lengthened, he noted.

Organized labor, he said, suspects employers' motives when they "claim to be advocates of workers' desires."

The departmental hearings were called in response to employer pressure for changes or exemptions to the overtime pay requirements in two laws applicable to government contractors—the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Contract Work Hours & Safety Act.

Jacob Clayman, administrative director of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, charged that allowing a 10-hour day at straight time would be "incredibly regressive."

As for the employer support for abolition of the eight-hour limit, Clayman suggested a simple profit motive.

A worker earning $4 an hour would, under present law, be paid $176 if he worked 40 hours in a fourday period. But if the daily eight-hour limit were removed, the employer would only have to pay him $160—and could pocket the $16 difference.

Oswald cited to the hearing examiner the statement adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council last month, which declared in part:

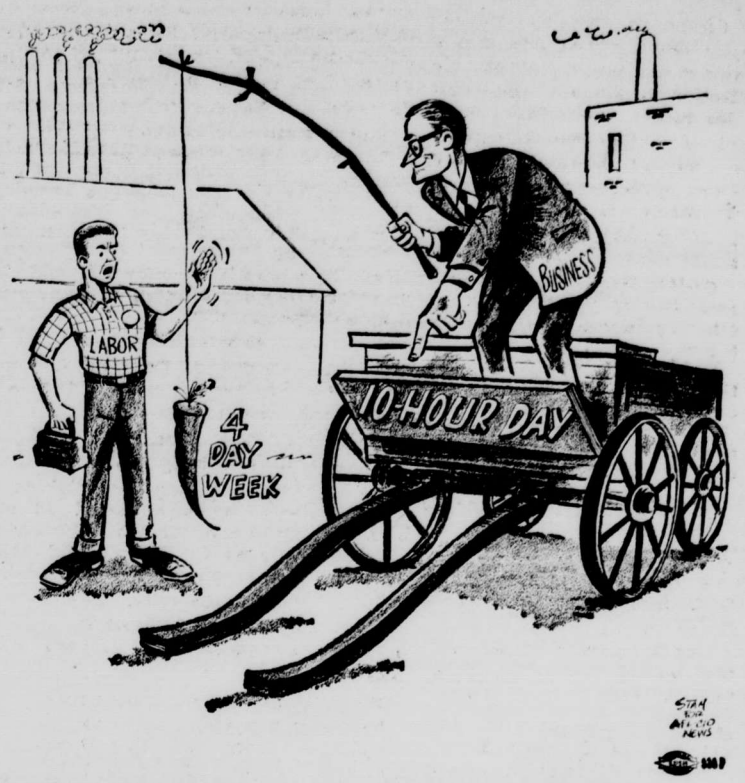
"We support union and management efforts, through collective bargaining, to reduce working hours and to reschedule workweek arrangements to their mutual satisfaction."

"However, the eight - hour standard was achieved after decades of trade union efforts and we believe that federal laws, covering work on government contracts, must continue to protect workers against excessive hours of work per day, as well as excessive working hours per week."

Painters President S. Frank Raftery testified that a longer work day in often hazardous working environments would pose a serious threat to the health and safety of workers.

The nation, he urged, should be moving instead towards a shorter workweek and stiffer penalty pay for overtime.

The AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Department and Metal Trades Department testified strongly against any relaxation of the eight-hour day ceiling.



Pontes on district retirement board

President Manuel Pontes of AFSCME - East Bay Municipal Utility District Workers Local 444 has won a three-man race for membership on the EBMUD retirement board.

His selection means that both employe members of the five-member board are from Local 444. Secretary-Treasurer Charles E. Teixeria was already a member.

In employe balloting, Pontes got 313 votes to 298 and 178 for his two competitors.

Management still has employes outnumbered on the board which is made up of two EBMUD directors, the general manager and two employe representatives.

Council delegates

New delegates seated last week by the Alameda County Central Labor Council were Albert P. Ramoz, of American Flint Glass Workers Local 66, and Stanley F. George and Laura M. Collins, both of American Federation of Grainmillers Local 211.

Danger at home

The Health Insurance Institute estimates that from 500,000 to 1,000,000 children will accidentally swallow medicines and dangerous household products this year. It said most dangerous such items are furniture polish, cleaning agents and pesticides.

Council protests pay curb, layoff of U.S. employes

President Nixon not only has asked Congress to delay scheduled federal pay raises but has directed a similar delay in wage surveys aimed at federal blue collar pay parity with comparable private industry jobs, the Alameda County Central Labor Council noted this week.

It disclosed the survey delay in one of two resolutions protesting administration economic moves penalizing federal workers, including the upcoming layoff of 215 Oakland Naval Supply Center employes.

A resolution protesting the layoff, forced by the center's tentative budget and guidance, was to go to the Navy Department and Congress.

In a second resolution, the council directed Executive Secretary - Treasurer Richard K. Groulx to work in conjunction with the California Labor Federation to implement opposition to the proposed federal pay raise delay.

And it supported Contra Costa County Congressman Jerome Waldie's House Resolution 587 to forbid Nixon from delaying the wage surveys.

American Federation of Government Employees Local 1533 has noted that the surveys already are some 18 months late.

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OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
LESLIE K. MOORE,
Business Representative

IRON WORKERS 378

Our Regular Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m.

Stewards meetings also are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
BOB McDONALD
Business Agent

STEELWORKERS L.U. 7616

Regular membership meetings are held the second Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. at Eagles' Hall, 1228 Thirty-sixth Avenue, Oakland, California.

Fraternally,
ESTELLA STEPHENS,
Recording Secretary

ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Carpenters Local 194 meets the first and third Monday evenings of the month at 8 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 2201 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the Canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your Local's meetings.

Fraternally,
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,
Recording Secretary

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 382

Meeting second Friday of the month at 8 p.m. in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
TED E. AHL,
Secretary

SERVICE EMPLOYEES 322

Regular meetings held first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, Room H, Third Floor.

Fraternally,
VERN DUARTE,
Financial Secretary

BARBERS 516

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 1971 at 8 p.m. in Newark Square Barber Shop, 5600 Thornton Avenue, Newark, California.

Fraternally,
AL DOYLE,
Secretary-Treasurer

U.C. EMPLOYEES 371

Our next regular meeting will be held on October 9, 1971 in Room 155, Kroeber Hall, at 2 p.m. It will be preceeded by the Executive Board at 12:30 p.m. Let's have a good turnout. Negotiations will be starting. Let's all be there and air our views.

Fraternally,
J. J. SANTORO,
Secretary-Treasurer

CARPET & LINOLEUM 1290

There will be a SPECIAL CALL meeting of Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Workers Local 1290 on Thursday, September 23, 1971 at 8 p.m., Hall "C," 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California.

There will be a third reading of two Resolutions: one on meeting assessments—and one on filling the office of Business Manager other than election. Please attend.

National Conference Deaths are now due and payable through NC 395. Also, $3.50 is due for Brother Raymond Griffin who passed away August 7, 1971.

Fraternally,
BOB SEIDEL,
Recording Secretary

HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

Want to know what's happening? Come to your union meetings!

Regular meetings are held every second and fourth Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at the hall, 1050 Mattox Road, Hayward, California.

Pay your dues at the Financial Secretary's office. It is open at 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

Members who move should inform the local union of their new addresses.

Fraternally,
CHARLES WACK,
Recording Secretary

SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

General membership meetings of Service Employees Local 18 are held at 10 a.m. the 4th Saturday of each month in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
BEN J. TUSI,
Secretary

BARBERS 134

Our next regular meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, September 23, 1971, at the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California.

A Long Hair Seminar will be held at 8:30 p.m. directly after a short meeting. Kenny Byoff of Kenny's Workshop will be in charge of program. There will be a $1.50 donation charge.

Please DO NOT send Pension payments, but DUES ONLY. The Pension is still frozen by a Federal Court Order. A monitored referendum vote will be taken on a revised plan at which time you will have a vote on whether you want to accept the proposed plan or have the Pension dissolved.

Fraternally,
JACK M. REED,
Secretary-Treasurer

CARPENTERS 36

The regular meetings for Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8 p.m. Refreshments are served by the Ladies Auxiliary immediately following each meeting.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

Fraternally,
ALLEN L. LINDER,
Recording Secretary

BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

NOTICE

When sending in your dues by mail, please send to Wm. Mahaffey, 2315 Valdez Street, Room 220-A, Oakland, California 94612.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley, California.

Fraternally,
NICK J. AFDAMO,
Recording Secretary

SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,
FRED HARMON,
Business Manager

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 C Street, Hayward, California.

Fraternally,
WILLIAM PRENDEBLE,
Secretary

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 3

General membership meeting Hall C, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, the fourth Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
JACK KENNEDY,
Business Representative

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 257

The regular meeting of the Oakland, California Unified School Employees Union 257 will be held on Saturday, October 9, 1971 at 10:30 a.m. in the Castlemont High School Auditorium, 8601 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, California.

The Executive Board will meet at 8 a.m. in Community Room. All Board members please take note.

NOTE: There will be nominations for officers at the October 9, 1971 and November 13, 1971 regular meetings.

Come and exercise your right to nominate your choice of officers for 1972-73.

Fraternally,
HAROLD BENNER,
Executive Secretary

Ban on Nixon tax giveaway urged

Continued from page 1

down" economic theory.

"For those who have much, the President proposes more," Meany summed up. "For those who have little, the President proposes less.

"Every dollar of taxes given away to business and industry is a dollar more that must be paid by someone else, or a dollar's worth of public facilities and services that are foregone."

Few if any jobs will be created by reinstituting an investment tax credit loophole "under the blatantly deceptive label 'job development tax credit,'" Meany charged.

It will not put the Viet Nam war veteran to work.

"There is nothing here for those Americans who have been laid-off in war-geared industries."

Nixon's tax plans add up to a "giant raid on the U.S. Treasury" which Congress should reject, Meany declared.

Meany had these other comments:

He cited the War Labor Board as the model for a system that functioned effectively without government dictation—or participation.

Even when labor was outvoted on issues, Meany told the committee, it accepted the decision "because we were in the discussion that resulted in the policy."

But, he warned, if the government and not a public representative is in the middle, the result is government dictation.

"Then it is not voluntary."

• Labor opposes, as it did last year, Nixon's proposal to allow companies indefinitely to defer taxes on profits from exports sold through a new form of subsidiary to be called DISC, for Domestic International Sales Corp.

Companies would save hundreds of millions of dollars a year on taxes without any requirement that they increase their export sales, Meany noted.

And, he stressed, as in the case of all other proposed loopholes the loss in tax revenue would have to be made up by higher taxes on incomes or a cutback in government services.

• Labor endorses the proposal to eliminate 7 per cent excise tax on automobiles "provided the consumer receives the full benefit."

Meany told the committee that "the sooner the federal government gets out of the sales-tax business the better."

• Nixon's plan to advance by one year—from 1973 to 1972—the already scheduled increase in the personal income tax deduction of $50 for each dependent "is a small, one-shot tax relief proposal . . . calculated to obscure the impact of huge corporate tax gipeaways."

It would give a family with an income of $10,000 a year a one-time tax break about the same a corporation would receive on the purchase of a single electric typewriter, he said.

Meany noted that Nixon's proposed 10 per cent border tax on imports "is no more than a temporary stopgap" and "totally inadequate" as a solution to trade problems.

"It is honeycombed with exceptions and does nothing at all to control the operations of the multinational corporations and international banks, mostly based in the United States, that are exporting American jobs, capital and technology," he declared.

Meany stressed that Nixon proposes to make up for the "tax bonanza" to big business by:

• Taking money from the poor through delay in welfare reform.

• Withholding money from federal employes that they have already earned by delaying scheduled wage increases an additional six months.

• Slash federal employment by 5 per cent, eliminating 100,000 jobs.

• Holding back financial assistance promised to cities and states.

The tax windfalls Nixon proposes to hand over to business, Meany declared, is money needed to meet the nation's urgent needs.

"America needs schools and hospitals, parks and recreation areas," he said.

"America needs a vast expansion of medical facilities . . . 25 million new housing units . . . low-cost transit systems in every major city . . . new waste disposal systems."

Dick and Martha talk about economy

Continued from page 1

"Go out and spend your money and enjoy yourself."

She said that Nixon was the "best friend" the average housewife has and she urged:

"I think they should have a great deal of faith in this country.

"They should be going out and spending their money.

"We are in a period of prosperity and all we need is a great deal of confidence because everything's right for us."

She did not indicate how housewives in families among the 5,000,000-plus U.S. unemployed or housewives on relief should interpret her advice.

But, just back from a vacation in Europe, she said she was ready to "Preach America" after a briefing session by the President with cabinet members and their wives.

"Let's have America for Americans for a change and forget the rest of the world," she said.

Nixon indicated that the post-"freeze" program he plans would require labor and management cooperation and that "it will restrain wages and prices in major industries."

Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson said that the Nixon "freeze" order wasn't intended to stop collective bargaining.

But he noted that the money negotiated would have to pass through the approval or rejection mechanism of the so-called Cost of Living Council which administers the "freeze" and also of whatever permanent controls come about after November 13.

The Cost of Living Council has shut the door on practically all wage or fringe benefit improvements due during the "freeze."

from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

A late dispatch from Kansas revives a memory

Continued from page 1

they say, is a "conflict of interest" if you're also an editorial writer.

★ ★ ★

OH, HOW that quaint, old fashioned idea brings back those happy scenes of my youth when I was permitted to join the fascinating world of journalism for $15 a week, no overtime pay, no job security, no seniority, no practically anything else.

But did we redblooded, vigorous young molders of opinion and purveyors of news care one whit?

★ ★ ★

YOU DAMN RIGHT we did.

We young, old and middleaged journalists were not satisfied with bylines.

Nor were we satisfied with the occasional free drink, free bottle or free theater ticket pressed upon us by that adoring section of our public, which was made up of politicians, businessmen and attorneys desirous of getting their names in the paper.

We wanted money. We noted that we were paid half or even less than half what union printers or teletype operators, to name just two of the organized newspaper crafts, were making.

So The Newspaper Guild was born. Some of us got fired. Some got raises to woo them away from the union. Some got promises. Some of us did not dare join.

I remember one individual, who when it was safe some years later became prominent in the union. But back then when you mentioned Guild to him in the office he would have a sudden, irresistible call of nature, requiring him to sprint 40 yards to the men's room door.

I advised him to see a doctor about his bladder problem, but it actually was a heart problem —no heart.

★ ★ ★

WHAT MOST of us got was talk. My boy (or girl as the case may be), said many a boss, you have a great future. Why destroy it by joining this union? How can I ever trust you to write a story if I know your loyalty is to some union or other and not to the paper?

You'd slant the news for the union, the boss declared.

Their words seemed to wrap the paper in American flags and the spirit of motherhood, sanitation and progress.

Their pitch did not seem consistent with the fact that our news columns were almost uniformly slanted for employers and the Republican party.

While it worked for some, many noted that the great future the boss mentioned did not fit the meager paycheck, nor even the meager raise you got once in an ultramarine blue moon.

The union now has many contracts, perhaps even some in Kansas, and I have been unable to ascertain any pro-union news slanting in the daily papers.

★ ★ ★

AT LAST AVAILABLE report, the Wichita papers, where the Guild won bargaining rights last January, had not yet signed a Guild contract.

This might explain their old-fashioned belief that unionism conflicts with the professional obligations of us ace journalists.

I would suggest that it sign such a contract and learn by experience that it is mistaken.

Meanwhile, I am grateful for its revival of what looks remarkably like an old idea.

It's like a fresh breeze from a younger world.

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45th Year, Number 28 — September 24, 1971

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, Editor

1622 East 12th Street, Oakland, Calif. 94606 — Phone 261-3980

He calls it 'inflation' if it's a wage increase

A housewife in our neighborhood, who had been a staunch believer in R. M. Nixon's so-called "freeze" on wages and prices, is troubled this week.

She relates how she sent one of her children up the street for coffee.

She showed the child the almost empty two-pound can she had bought in August before the "freeze," and on which was the pre-"freeze" price of $1.69.

The child dutifully returned with less change than expected and with a two-pound can bearing the price of $1.95.

In eight weeks, the price of two pounds of coffee rose from $1.69 to $1.95.

In eight weeks, the difference was 26 cents, or 13 cents per pound.

Let us all now agree with the President that inflation is bad.

And let us do the necessary arithmetic to determine that on this two pounds of coffee the price was inflated 15 per cent in eight weeks.

If that 15 per cent were a wage increase, it would indeed be inflationary in the President's estimation.

But he has kindly permitted a number of loopholes which price increases can slip through.

Unprocessed food is not "frozen" at all which means a general upward thaw on food prices to you.

This exposes the utter hypocrisy of claimed economic stabilization which forbids a pay raise of as little as 5 cents an hour but permits a 15 per cent increase on an item that working people buy.

The Nixon philosophy is that wage increases are too good for the working people but they deserve to foot the bill for price increases.

This penalizes children

The federal government has cut back its share of school lunch financing to the point where many schools will no longer be able to furnish this service to poor children.

The Agriculture Department's excuse is that "we must have discipline if we're going to live within our budgets."

Such "living within our budgets" is a costly enterprise. Senate critics of the cutback estimate California alone is losing $9,000,000 for school lunches and other states are also losing in the millions.

The first contrast which comes to mind is between this "discipline" against children and the government's continuing program of passing out millions to farmers for not growing food.

Another contrast is with the administration's and Congress' liberality of big companies in financial difficulty.

Ironically, while the government is "living within our budgets" on school lunches, it continues to allow corporation farmers to get around reclamation law and secure the cheap water to which they are not entitled.

If rather than so subsidizing corporate farms, the government utilized its options to secure adequate revenue for use of taxpayer-furnished water, many government departments would "live within our budgets."

Instead the administration choses to economize on children's food. This despite the fact that inadequate food in childhood is a major cause of mental retardation and substandard physical health in adults.

If you are a big corporation, the administration is sympathetic.

If you are a poor child, the administration "lives within our budgets."

'For You, M'Love!'



If prices don't fall -- a 'pre-explanation'

President Nixon's Labor Department won't vouch for an immediate change in prices in the August Consumer Price Index as a result of his so-called wage-price "freeze."

The Department's weekly Labor Press Service, a booklet bundling up a batch of press releases, says:

"We have no way of knowing until prices are collected and the index computed which direction the index will take, or whether it will move at all."

It explains a possible lack of effect in advance by noting that the "August index will be based on prices collected both before and after the effective date of the wage-price freeze announced by the President on August 15."

Then it concedes loopholes in the price side of the purported wage-price control measure by noting:

"The index embraces both covered items and items that are exempt from the freeze.

"Raw agricultural products, sales and property taxes and some imported goods subject to the new import surcharge which may be passed along to the retail level are exempt from the freeze.

"Some prices in August may have been at seasonal lows below permissible ceiling prices and therefore may rise or fall under the permissible ceilings in subsequent months."

It fails to note, however, that besides the goods specifically exempted from price curbs by the President, others may be increased in price if the seller had been getting the higher price for only 10 per cent of his business volume—which the government calls a "substantial" percentage of sales.

Further preparation for possible non-reaction by prices to the "freeze" is in these points noted by the department:

"Although the index is compiled monthly, not all of the 400 items in it are priced every month in all 56 covered cities nor does the index refer to any definite date within the month. Except for the five largest cities where most pricing is done monthly, prices for most goods and services, other than food, are collected at three-month intervals on a rotating basis.

"In addition, prices of some items such as rents and property taxes are collected once every six or twelve months . . .

"Some components of the index, such as used cars and home purchases rely on the use of averages of prices for several months. For example, data for used cars for July, August, and September turn up in the September index; home purchase data for these months turn up in the October index.

"The seasonal adjustment of the CPI allows for the usual change in price that occurs during the year, due to traditional sales, introduction of new car models, and so on . . ."

Says the department at the conclusion of its pre-explanation:

"The Consumer Price Index is a useful periodic indicator, and we hope this explanation of some of its features will further an understanding of its operation."

Special Assembly vote October 19

The Forty-eighth Assembly District vacancy left by the election of Assemblyman David Roberti to the State Senate will be filled at a special election Thursday, October 19, with 10 candidates in the race.

If a runoff is necessary in the Los Angeles County district, it will be held November 16.

Seven Democrats, one Republican, one independent and one Peace & Freedom party candidate have filed.

High joblessness spreads to 829 cities

The blight of heavy unemployment spread to 25 more communities in August, putting the nation's total of areas with "substantial" or "persistent" joblessness at 829.

Of those 829, the Labor Department said 496, including Oakland, had "persistent" unemployment. That means a 6 per cent or higher jobless rate for the last calendar year and a rate at least 50 per cent above the national average for several years.

"Substantial" unemployment means a 6 per cent or higher rate which is expected to continue at least two months.

The department's new data:

1. Eight major areas acquired substantial joblessness as did 16 smaller ones. One area graduated from substantial to persistent joblessness, but the department press release failed to name it.

2. There was, however, a silver lining in 88 major areas plus 24 states and the District of Columbia with no more than "moderate" joblessness.

("Moderate," the department said, is less than 6 per cent joblessness. Some of the moderate or less areas even had "low" unemployment. The department didn't define what it calls low).

3. Eight areas and one county became eligible for federal public works assistance because unemployment was bad all through 1970.

The new substantial unemployment areas were Boston, Philadelphia, Fort Worth, Dayton, Davenport-Rock Island-Moline in Illinois and Iowa, Shreveport, Wilkes - Barre & Hazelton, Pennsylvania and Charleston, South Carolina.

Besides Oakland, the major areas with persistent unemployment were Newark, New Jersey and Cleveland.

The 16 smaller areas joining the substantial joblessness list were Talledega, Louisiana; Muncie, Indiana; Wilson, North Carolina; Georgetown and Logan, Ohio; Chickasha and Durant, Oklahoma; Emporium, Huntington, Punxsatawney and St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, and Moorefield and Philippi, West Virginia.

Poor reassured; 'freeze' protects their poverty, says Buchwald

By ART BUCHWALD

Here are some questions that you have probably been asking concerning the Nixon administration's wage-price freeze:

Q. Why is there a wage-price freeze in the United States?

A. Because President Nixon's economic game plan didn't work.

Q. What was his economic game plan?

A. To lick inflation by having a reasonable amount of unemployment.

Q. What happened?

A. He was only successful in 50 per cent of his goals. He did not lick inflation, but he did manage to have a lot of unemployment.

Q. Who is affected by this wage and price freeze?

A. Everyone but banks and insurance companies.

Q. Why are they not affected?

A. Because they are hardship cases.

Q. What about school teachers, policemen, firemen and government employes?

A. They are not exempted because they can weather a wage-price freeze much easier than banks and insurance companies.

Q. Did President Nixon devalue the dollar?

A. Absolutely not. He asked Germany, France and Japan to devalue it for him. The dollar is floating.

Q. Where is it floating?

A. Probably at sea. Two things can happen now. The dollar can be rescued or it can sink.

Q. Who will decide what happens to the dollar?

A. The gnomes in Switzerland.

Q. Woh are the gnomes in Switzerland?

A. They're tiny little men, three feet tall, who buy and sell dollars all over the world.

Q. Can President Nixon do anything about the gnomes in Switzerand?

A. He can. Just before the elections he will announce that if he is reelected he will go to Zurich.

Q. Could President Nixon have done anything to avoid a wage-price freeze?

A. Yes. He could have sold Alaska. As a matter of fact there is a rumor he might still do it. That's why he asked Emperor Hirohito to meet him there, so Japan could make him an offer.

Q. How will the wage freeze affect poor people?

A. They have nothing to fear from it. It's been set up in such a way that their poverty will be protected.

Q. Why did the stock market go up so high when the President clamped the freeze on?

A. Many top-flight Wall Street investors and brokers were called back from their vacations. They figured as long as they were there and didn't have to go home to dinner, they might as well buy stocks. As soon as their wives come home they'll probably sell.

Q. If my boss promised me a raise and he can't give it to me because of the wage freeze, what does that make him?

A. The happiest man in the world.

Q. How could this have happened to the dollar when it says right on it "In God We Trust?"

A. God didn't do this to us. It was the Germans, the French, and the Japanese.

Q. But why should God allow this to happen if he knows we put all our trust in him?

A. The President has asked Billy Graham to head up a blue-ribbon panel to find an answer to this question.

Q. When will we know?

A. Next Sunday.

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Retroactive pay raise OK--if it's cut again

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during the freeze," said the council.

The council gave a little on Columbus Day, as a paid holiday which it had previously banned if it is a new holiday this year.

Workers can have the October 11 holiday, the council said, if it is an established company practice to grant federal holidays, if it's already in the union contract or if the employer announced prior to the August 15 "freeze" date that Columbus Day would be a paid holiday.

The council ruled that a semi-annual cost-of-living increase which was due prior to the freeze—but delayed until the pertinent Consumer Price Index was available—can be paid.

The council said that the employer who pays all the group health care costs for employes may switch to a new group health insurance plan providing increased medical services for his employes, providing there is no increase in premium.

"Any savings realized, however, may not be passed along to the employes, since this would be an increase in real wages."

Board hit on welfare 'priority'

Teh Alameda County board of supervisors Tuesday put off action on its welfare task force report, which blames most welfare ills here on management, and told the study group to come back in three weeks with a list of priorities.

Central Labor Council Assistant Secretary Ed Collins, the only labor representative on the task force, said he was "upset" at the request for priorities when the obvious main event in the report is management's responsibility for welfare failures.

"Unless the board of supervisors tangles with the most important problem which we have pointed out, that management has not been able to run the department in the past, then there is no sense in the task force listing priorities," he said.

Nor, Collins said, would he get into a "numbers game" with the board, which could act on many of the task force's 66 recommendations without tackling the main problem of mismanagement.

The Alameda County Welfare Task Force Study Committee had staff assistance from the California Taxpayers Association in its study.

The task force report finds welfare shortcomings here to be almost entirely management's fault, notably in failing to furnish uniform policies and guidance to social welfare workers.

The board voted 4 to 0 to accept the report and put it over to October 12. Voting for the motion were Supervisors Fred F. Cooper, John D. Murphy and Joseph Bort and Board Chairman Robert Hannon. Supervisor Emanuel Razeto was absent.

Settlement in housing authority strike

Continued from page 1

authority's three offices at 935 Union Street, 7335 MacArthur Boulevard and 1327 Sixty-fifth Avenue. The strike had Alameda County Central Labor Council sanction and Building Trades Council support and other unionists respected picket lines.

Celaya reported that negotiations had been underway on an almost weekly frequency since the employes' choice of the union was verified by a card check June 17.

The body of a contract had been tentatively agreed on and, Celaya said, authority negotiator Michael Kelly had agreed that the final pay settlement would be retroactive to July 1.

With no agreement on money matters or job classifications, negotiators met September 15 when Kelly made his announcement.

Local 29 was seeking 5 to 15 per cent pay raises, ranging as high as $100 a month, to gain parity with Oakland city employes.

The union also asked health and welfare improvements, including dental, vision and prescription drug care and better sick leave, holiday and vacation provisions.

Union money proposals were within guidelines drawn by the federal Department of Housing & Urban Renewal, Celeya declared.

Management had made some proposals on classifications but there was no agreement, he added.

Authority Director R. J. Guichard had declined to meet union negotiators, assigning Kelly, an assistant, to the negotiations.

Oakland meet on health bill to hear McGovern Sunday

U.S. Senator George S. McGovern will be the main speaker next Sunday at an Oakland Conference of Senior Citizens Groups on National Health Security, sponsored by senior citizen and labor organizations, including the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

The public meeting will open at 2 p.m. at the Oakland auditorium theater under chairmanship of California Labor Federation Secretary John F. Henning.

Senator McGovern, South Dakota Democrat, is a co-sponsor of the Kennedy-Griffiths National Health Security Act, Senate Bill 3-House Resolution 22. He will discuss the significance of the bill which aims at full health care for all Americans.

Other speakers will be San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto, President Isabel Van Frank of the East Bay Legislative Council of Senior Citizen Groups, the Reverend Edward L. Peet, President of the California Legislative Council for Older Americans, Oakland Mayor John Reading and John A. Mitchell M.D., deputy director of regional medical programs of the federal Health, Education & Welfare Department.

Folk singer and composer Malvina Reynolds will sing, possibly a new song composed for the meeting.

Besides the Labor Council, other co-sponsors are eight senior citizen groups, Retail Clerks Local 870 Retirees Club, Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, Teamsters Local 70, ILWU East Bay Joint Legislative Committee and United Auto Workers Local 1364.

'Freeze' doesn't do much to top executives' income

The "freeze" President Nixon has ordered on wages doesn't have too much effect on the income of high-paid business executives, the New York Times noted.

The writer, Michael C. Jensen, noted that bonuses and salaries often adding up to more than $200,000 will still go to the top men in business.

He added:

• Liberalized tax laws will allow them to keep higher percentages of their income.

• Stock options are still available—at a time when the market looks attractive.

• Dividends from stock they already own are not frozen, so if big business prospers they will, too.

• Increased bonus payments apparently will be allowed by the President's Cost of Living Council if they are tied to company earnings by an established formula.

Jensen quoted Frederick A. Teague, a vice president of Booz, Allen & Hamilton, a Chicago-based consulting firm, that "neither the freeze nor the immediate possibility of further controls has had a very profound impact on executive compensation."

Another consultant said tax law revisions introduced in 1969 could sharply increase the take-home pay of top executives, for example those earning more than $200,000.

Without increasing his gross income an executive could gain about 16 per cent over the 1970-72 period because of the tax revisions, the consultant was quoted as saying.

Another apparent loophole in the freeze is the partnership. Legal and accounting firms, brokerage houses and consulting firms apparently may still divide profits which are not subject to the freeze.

Bryce R. Dye, former printers aide, dies at 72

Bryce R. Dye, who had served as president and vice president of Oakland Typographical Union Local 36, died last week in his Oakland home. He was 72.

Dye, a member of Local 36 since June 26, 1924, served the union as vice president from 1953 to 1968 when he retired.

During that period, he took over as president for a brief period, filling a vacancy caused by his predecessor's resignation.

He had been a member of the union's newspaper scale committee, the group which negotiates printers' newspaper agreements, and of the local union executive committee, serving more than 10 years on each committee.

He worked for the Oakland Tribune for three years until his retirement in 1969. He had previously worked more than 20 years for the Berkeley Gazette.

Survivors are his wife Dorothy of the family home at 493 Worth Street, Oakland; two brothers, Wayne, of Oakland, well-known retired Local 36 member, and Earl, of San Francisco; a daughter, Mary Ellen Dye of Pt. Reyes Station, and a son Robert of Concord.

No services were held. Contributions in his memory may be sent to the Union Printers Home Endowment Fund, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

COPE asks gifts of real dishes

Alameda County COPE's cuisine is world-famous — at least in Alameda County—and all that's needed for perfection is a tableware upgrading.

In other words, COPE needs real dishes, glasses and cups to supplant the paper plates on which it has been serving meals to COPE volunteers during heavy political work sessions.

Anyone who cares to donate such items which may be surplus at home should phone the Central Labor Council, 444-6510, and the gifts will be picked up with thanks.

La-Z-Boy strike crucial, says union

Members of the United Furniture Workers of America have been alerted by their union that the struggle against La-Z-Boy Chair Company is one of the most crucial in the Furnture Workers' history.

One thousand members struck the firm's two plants in Monroe, Michigan and one in Florence, South Carolina on August 2 and 3. The AFL-CIO has asked a consumer boycott of La-Z-Boy.

Three other La-Z-Boy plants—at Neosho, Missouri; Redlands, California, and Newton, Mississippi, are unorganized and the union has organizing campaigns underway at all three, where wages are much lower than at Monroe.

The union charged that management provoked the strike to weaken the union, preventing it from continuing its organizing.

At Monroe, after five months of negotiations, "the company refused to grant a wage increase equal to the rise in the cost of living in Monroe, where we have had a contract for 15 years," the union disclosed.

"All the company would offer the 500 newly organized workers at the South Carolina plant was a 10-cent raise—'take it or leave it' . . .

"This company has made so much money last year that they could have given each worker a $1 per hour raise and still would have made a profit of over $6,000,000—instead of the $10,500,000 they actually made."